

# Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

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## News items

One of the advantages of membership in the American Numismatic Association is the availability of group rates for insurance on a numismatic collection. For each \$100. of value, insurance rates vary from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per year, depending on whether the collection is kept in a safety deposit box, in a home safe, or in the home. If this information prompts you to think about ANA membership, let me know and I'll send details.

Greg Manos reports that David Freed has a great token display at the Pioneer Village museum, which is part of his Lagoon Amusement Park at Farmington, UT. The tokens are mounted vertically in plexiglass so both sides can be examined. Movable magnifying glasses are attached to the display.

Greg also sent me a rubbing of a token from a "new" location:

THE HERMAN / SALOON / HERMAN, IDAHO

GOOD FOR / ONE DRINK / OR CIGAR

He has gotten close enough to get a rubbing, but has yet to add it to his collection. Good luck on it, Greg!

If you have e-mail capability, please let me know your address. We may want to use it in the future. I recently got an account (jmutch@juno.com) – juno offers free e-mail accounts to anyone willing to install their free software and give them some personal demographics. They then target the user with on-screen advertisements, but I have only seen one flash by in the three weeks I have been on the system. It's pretty easy to ignore the ads. They have local dial access numbers in Boise, Ketchum, and Pocatello, plus larger towns in all other states. Later this spring, Pocatello will be a local call from Rexburg, but Ketchum will be long distance from outside the Wood River Valley. Let me know if you are interested; the program runs under Windows; I don't know about Mac compatibility.

## Dean Rasmussen tells all:

I was raised in Rexburg and inherited my interest in collecting from my grandfather who was a rockhound. I became a rockhound at an early age and also collected fossils for many years.

I began collecting coins in the late 1970s and specialized in large cents. By the late 1980s I was beginning to lose interest in coin collecting when I found a Rexburg token at a coin show. This seemed to spark my interest and I began to try and find out as much as I could about Idaho tokens.

In the fall of 1988 I attended the fall coin show in Boise in hopes of meeting some other collectors and finding out some more about Idaho tokens. I was able to meet several Idaho token collectors and saw two neat token displays. I also had an experience there that turned me into a serious Idaho token collector.

I had arrived early and was one of the first to make the rounds. One Ogden coin dealer had two neat-looking Idaho tokens that he said had been dug with the help of a metal detector. He wanted what seemed like a lot of money for the tokens, so I asked him to hold them for a few minutes while I went to my room to consult Schell's books. Finding neither token listed I returned to the show. I again looked at the tokens but I still felt the price was too high. I gave the tokens back to the dealer and said I would have to think about it. Before I could leave, Jim Mabry came by asking for Idaho tokens. He immediately bought the two tokens and commented how rare they were. I decided then and there that I would learn all I could about Idaho tokens so as not to make that kind of mistake again. I've been working on learning ever since and have really enjoyed the friendships made along the way.

### The Idaho Territory token

Besides having dates actually on a token, there are a few other ways to date a token. A milestone in Idaho's history was when she became a territory in 1863 and a state in 1890. I only know of one token which actually states it is from the pre-statehood era, although many actually are. Although it is not positive, evidence points to Dave Adams as the issuer of this token.

Dave Adams was born in Illinois in 1843. He learned the printer's trade in Arkansas and worked his way to California, serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war, he freighted flour to Humboldt County, Nevada. From there, in the spring of 1868, he came to Silver City on foot. For the next 11 years he engaged in numerous ventures in southwestern Idaho, including working for Judge Milton Kelly's Idaho Statesman in Boise, before he returned to Silver City for good. He was involved in printing, packing, and a general merchandise business there, however the only listing I have seen which connects him to the token is in the 1886/7 Oregon-Washington Territory-Idaho Territory Gazetteer where the listing is "David Adams - Saloon". There are two examples of this 24mm nickel token known to me, both having found their way to California collections.



## A maverick from Stewart, Idaho

From the Kellogg News, Kellogg, ID Friday, April 27, 1917:

### Fire Claims Two Victims

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Carver, long time residents of this community, lost their lives in a fire which destroyed their store building and home in government Gulch early last Tuesday morning. When recovered the bodies were burned beyond recognition and were brought to the Worstell-Thornhill undertaking parlors and prepared for burial.

The origin of the fire is unknown. When discovered it was burning fiercely in the rear of the building and spread rapidly. Mrs. Carver was aroused first and she quickly gave the alarm, rushing her two daughters from the building and turned to save such articles as she could. Just the manner of their meeting death will never be known. Mr. Carver was aroused and was assisting in saving some of (the) valuables in the burning room when the roof fell and caught them both, death resulting. Their charred bodies were found near the piano. The fire destroyed the home, their store, the Golsong property and the home of Mary Oster.

The Carver family had resided here for many years, Mr. Carver being engaged in business in Wardner fifteen years ago. He had a wide circle of friends, was a hard worker and applied himself closely to his business at the Stewart store and postoffice. He was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose. Mrs. Carver, whose mother, Mrs. S. E. Whisner, resides in this city, was a woman of splendid personality and was held in high esteem. She was an active lodge worker and was clerk of local lodge, Women of Woodcraft. a son and two daughters are left in the family, the son being in Duluth, Minn., and the two daughters here where they attend school.

There are two varieties of the C. E. CARVER token, both mavericks. They are both 21mm brass pieces, the difference being that STEW-1 has stars on the reverse and STEW-1(A) does not. Quite possibly Carver had them made as mavericks intentionally so he could

locate his business anywhere without having to change the tokens. Stewart was located about one half mile south of Wardner, on Milo Creek below the Bunker Hill Mine. It was since covered by tailings from the mine.



The only directory listing I have found on Carver is in the 1914 Bradstreet where he is listed as "General Store".

## Kelly Hot Springs

If you head southeast from downtown Boise, following Warm Springs Avenue, you pass several sites of historical interest. Near St. Luke's Hospital is Boise's Pioneer Cemetery, where many of early residents are buried. Close to the edge of the residential area is Adams School, which is built on the site of White City Park, an early amusement park and destination for the Interurban street car line. Toward the Boise River a short distance is the Natatorium municipal pool, built on the location of the Natatorium, Boise's landmark resort for many years. The "Nat" featured an indoor swimming pool with rock diving platforms on one end, club rooms, and a ballroom floor which could be moved over the pool. The steam from the geothermal water condensed on the wooden beams of the roof of the structure and weakened them. A windstorm in 1934 caused beams to fail; the Nat was condemned and razed shortly thereafter.

Across Warm Springs Avenue and a short distance farther out from town, the old Idaho Penitentiary stands at the base of the west side of Table Rock. In a park just west of the Old Pen are the wells which provide geothermal water for the residences along Warm Springs Avenue and now extend heating water to downtown.

Warm Springs Avenue curves to the right and skirts the base of Table Rock, with the Boise River immediately to the south. Passing Table Rock, the street straightens out as it passes between the old Barber townsite on the left and the location of the Barber Dam and lumber mill on the right. Farther on you meet the newly constructed Highway 21, just below Diversion Dam. The new highway bridge over the Boise River allows motorists to exit Interstate 84 at Gowen Road and, crossing the old Oregon Trail as it entered the Boise valley, make a quick trip to Idaho City and beyond.

For centuries before the white man entered this valley, Native Americans enjoyed the hot springs around Table Rock. The largest of them was located at the mouth of a gulch on the southeast side of Table Rock. These springs had a good flow of very hot water, which could be cooled by mixing with cold surface water. There were also areas in the vicinity where hot mud baths could be taken.

The historical accounts of ownership and operation of these springs and the adjoining property are unclear, but following is what I have found. George L. Greathouse claimed these springs as part of his original homestead. James Pollard leased rights to the springs and opened the Boise Warm Springs Resort in 1867. In 1870, Dr. John L. Stephens took the lease, later purchasing the property in 1871. He made numerous improvements, including two pools (one enclosed for the women, and an open one for the men), then leased the spa to a series of operators. Ed Byron held the lease from 1874 to 1876, named it the Boise Vapor Springs, and opened the first bar on the site. James D. Dunn leased it from 1876 to 1892 and added a dance pavilion and cafe.

Milton Kelly, born September 9, 1818 in New York, came to Idaho Territory via Ohio, Wisconsin, California, and Oregon. In Idaho, he practiced law and had mining investments. He was elected to the First Territorial Legislature, and later appointed by President Lincoln

to be an Associate Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court for the First District at Lewiston. In 1872 he purchased the **Idaho Statesman** where Judge Kelly wrote many colorful editorials. Kelly's health began to decline, so he sold the newspaper and, in July of 1887 (or 1889?), he bought the 600-acre ranch containing the hot springs from Stephens and renamed it Kelly Hot Springs. He planned to make his retirement home there so he could conveniently enjoy the relief given by the springs.

Shortly before his death on April 9, 1892, Judge Kelly deeded the property to his daughter Kate, who had married Joseph Perrault, Kelly's assistant at the **Statesman**. The Perraults soon stopped Dunn's lease and leased the facility to F. A. McCarthy, who continued to call it Vapor Springs and advertised it as "Idaho's Pioneer Resort" in contrast with the newly-opened Natatorium. The Perraults lived on the ranch while a series of operators ran the baths, hotel, and eating and drinking facilities for them. Calamities destroyed the resort in 1903 (fire), 1904 (flooding from a cloudburst), and 1906 (fire). Each time they rebuilt. In 1907 the hotel illustrated was built. This is probably about the time the Kelly Hot Springs Bar token was made.

With the sinking of wells into the aquifer by the Boise Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company which owned the Nat, the supply of hot water at Kelly's was diminishing. Additionally, in about 1906, Dr. William B. Grigsby was drilling wells on property just west of Kelly Hot Springs. Perrault also tried drilling wells, but neither could attain a large flow of hot water. They both briefly believed they were going to strike oil as asphaltic sand was being found at about the 400 foot level. Perrault abandoned his drilling efforts in 1911, but Grigsby continued to 1914.

There were numerous stories in Boise about goings-on at the resort. They evolved from the fact that men and women could bathe in the same pool and that liquor was available to members of the "private club" and not under control of the Boise authorities. Rumors of the hotel being a brothel also circulated. In May of 1911, Lou Dorman, a bartender at Kelly's, was arrested for selling liquor to a stool pigeon who came as a guest of a member. Shortly thereafter the hotel burned to the ground, supposedly from an incubator in the basement, but possibly due to arson committed by anti-vice forces. This was the last straw for the Perraults who declined to rebuild. The flow of hot water has declined to a trickle, there is a nursery on the Grigsby site, and there is a proposal to make a subdivision of the Kelly ranch. Dan Lute's recently-found 28mm aluminum token from this historic spot is the only tangible evidence that it ever existed.





Kelly Hot Springs Hotel, built in 1911. From a sketch by Harold Rhodenbaugh in an article he wrote for the Idaho Statesman in 1929. As Dan Lute and I figure, this sketch is looking north from the lane currently going through the property. Table Rock is to the left of view and the source of the springs are to the right and behind the building.

Best,

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